MIT admits 1,485 to class of 2020 
for an admit rate of 7.8 percent

Admission rate resumes trend of decrease after a small increase last year, a class size of 1,120 is admissions goal

By Divya Gopinath

MIT offered admission to 1,485 out of 19,020 applicants for the class of 2020 for an admissions rate of 7.8 percent. The rate decreased from last year’s 8.0 percent, and has been steadily declining since 2003 with the exception of last year when it went up by 0.3 percentage points.

The decisions were released on Pi Day (March 14) at 5:00 p.m., as is MIT tradition.

The admissions office hopes that 1,120 of the accepted students will choose to attend MIT. This target size is consistent with recent class sizes, Dean of Admissions Szu Schmill ’86 wrote in an email to The Tech.

The number of applications rose this year, fully recovering from a decrease during the 2018 application season.

Of the 1,485 students admitted to the class of 2020, 656 were early action admits, The Tech reported last fall. The early-admission rate dropped to around 4.8 percent, from 9.6 percent last year, which may have been caused by an administrative policy change: international students were allowed to apply during the early action round for the first time this year.

A total of 477 students were waitlisted for the 2015-2016 admissions season. “It is hard to predict how many students will be admitted from the waitlist,” Schmill wrote in an email to The Tech. “In the last five years, we have admitted as few as zero and as many as 65.” Last year, 55 of the 575 students on the waitlist were admitted, which was a record high, according to MIT Admissions.

The demographics of the admitted class are largely consistent with last year. Women make up 49 percent of the admitted class.

Electors vote to consider new mathematical economics major

MIT faculty voted to consider a new Mathematical Economics major, designated as 14-2, Wednesday. They will vote to approve the major in April.

The Department of Economics will administer the new major, which will complement the current economics major, 14-2, through several economics subjects for some students.

Legal clinics have served over 75 students since opening

In his presentation to the faculty, Professor David Autor, associate department head of the economics department, stated, “Our rationales for posing this major are: one, provide a streamlined path for students in math, requiring students to take several course 18 electives including Real Analysis.

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Afrim Vlora, associate director, Tuesday: Andy Sellars, an attorney at Harvard University’s Berkman Center, will fill that role.

Plans for the clinics were formed after the founders of Tidbit, an MIT undergraduate startup, were subpoenaed by New Jersey’s attorney general in 2014. This highlighted a need for legal resources for students.

The Technology and Cyberlaw Clinic will focus on cybersecurity issues like Tidbit’s. The Entrepre

EXCESS FREE TIME? A part-time job can provide important life lessons

By Emma Bingham

By Emma Bingham

With elections for Undergraduate Association (UIA) president and vice president ongoing, The Tech sat down with candidates Sophia Liu ’17 and Dayui N. Gomez ’18 to talk about their experience in student government, the challenges they’ve faced, the issues they think are most important, and their plans for the future of the UIA. Liu currently serves as vice president of the UIA. The pair is running unopposed.

The Tech: Why do you think you are the only ones running?

Sophia Liu: People were asking if I was running, and there was an assumption that people did not want to run if I was running. It’s a mix of that and a mix of, probably, apathy. Also, I think when you do a really good job, not many people will want to run to change something. So I think a combination of those — apathy, trust in whoever is running, and just not wanting to put your campaign.

Liu, Gomez discuss campaign themes

Keeping the UA transparent and making it more welcoming are key

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Faculty votes to consider new mathematical economics major

Economics Page 12

Legal clinics have served over 75 students since opening

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SOMEONE IS TOO INTOXICATED TO CONSENT IF THEY ARE INCAPACITATED. SIGNS THAT A PERSON MAY BE APPROACHING INCAPACITATION CAN BE:

- **✓** VOMITING
- **✓** SLURRED SPEECH
- **✓** UNSTEADY GAIT
- **✓** LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS
THE EUGENE McDERMOTT AWARD IN THE ARTS AT MIT 2016 RECIPIENT ARCHITECT DAVID ADJAYE GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, COMMUNITY: DESIGNING TO CONTEXT FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC March 29 • 5:00pm • Room 10-250 Register at arts.mit.edu/adjaye

Connect the MIT community through infinite small acts of kindness. See something kind? Say something in kind! #MITRAK mindhandheart.mit.edu/events
The Republican Party created Donald Trump
By Daniel Perry

The political developments in the Republican Party this election cycle have did- dled even radical projections. A bombastic real-estate mogul has dominated the pri- mary contest by tapping into a deep dis- lusionment among the Republican primary electorate that few political analysts fully un- derstood. Mr. Trump has thrived by scath- ingly criticizing his rivals and offering vague and facile solutions to the portion of Ameri- ca that has felt disenfranchised by social and political change in this country. It was quite clear from the beginning of his campaign that Mr. Trump cares little for civil discussion of the issues. In his cam- paign announcement speech, he dispar- aged his opponents, calling them critical despite the fact that they are statistically no more prone to commit crimes than the gen- eral population. He has questioned the effi- cacy of vaccines and, most famously, assert- ed that he could force Mexico to build and fund a wall along its U.S. border. Political analysts, mainstream news media represent- atives, and a substantial number of political figures both inside and outside the Republi- can Party have denounced these assertions as incorrect. However, Trump’s momentum has not wavered.

There are several major drivers of sup- port for the Trump campaign. One is gener- al intolerance. Surveys have shown Trump supporters are much more likely to support policies against Muslims, LGBTQ individu- als, creed limits, and women. Another is opposition to globalization, with many blue- collar workers facing employment pressures in the modern economy. These workers form an important segment of Trump’s base, and with stagnating wages and high unemploy- ment, it is no wonder that they are attracted to a candidate who boasts that he will be “the greatest jobs president that God ever created.” But while it is clear that Mr. Trump is skilled at exploiting voter fears, one may wonder why he has been able to build a viable campaign when previous can- didates with broadly similar messages, such as Herman Cain or Rick Santorum, had un- successful presidential bids.

The answer is that Trump presents a dif- ferent style. He seems the type of principled discourse that used to form the bedrock of the party and has instead presented a new tone founded on baseless claims and ad hominem attacks. In response to his rise, many Republicans have pleaded with the electorate to reject Trump and embrace the “Republican values” that once united them. However, few of these in- treaties miss a fundamental point: that the Republican Party’s abandonment of its own values facilitated the rise of Trump to begin with.

Although true partisan civility has been in decline in the Republican Party since, at least, the Clinton Administration, the most precipitous decline has occurred since the 2008 election of Barack Obama. Republican leaders such as congressional representa- tive Steve King of Iowa have questioned President Obama’s place of birth and his religion. Other leaders doubted his patrio- tism. Rudolph Giuliani, the former mayor of New York City, stated, “I do not believe that the president loves America.” Even when discussing policy, Republican Party leaders have digested policy positions, and women have been excluded from the debate. For example, in response to an executive order by Obama that imposed immigration control, the speaker of the house, Paul Ryan, stated that Obama’s real objective was to offer “disfections from his failed record.”

This is how the Republicans established their primary mode of interparty politi- cal discourse. The Republican Party used the anger and discontent of the Republi- can electorate to galvanize opposition to the president. However, implicit in these increasingly vitriolic attacks on President Obama and the Democratic Party was a dichotomy: although civil discourse had been abandoned in interparty conflict, the establishment still wanted to maintain civil- ity in intraparty interactions. However, Republican voters could not maintain the cognitive dissonance. When the Republi- can Party created blameless attacks backed. Trump’s strategy has spread and now even formally well-managed Republi- can politicians, such as Marco Rubio, have been reduced to ridiculing Trump’s “hands.”

In a perfect example of contrapasso, the Republican strategy of blameless attacks backfired. Trump’s strategy has spread and now even formally well-managed Republi- can politicians, such as Marco Rubio, have been reduced to ridiculing Trump’s “hands.”

Still, it is not clear that Trump’s success is a foretaste of what to come. As the election draws near, Trump will have to demonstrate that his personal attacks, including the “gold standard” attacks that once fueled the rage of the Tea Party, are notwhat thatare necessarily that the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, Room W20-483, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room 212-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. The Tech reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority.

Once submitted, all letters become property of The Tech, and will not be returned. Letters, columns, and cartoons may also be posted on The Tech’s Web site and/or printed in any other form should The Tech deem it appropriate.

Guest comments are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community.

To reach us
The Tech’s telephone number is (617) 253-1541. Email is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to eic@tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. You can reach the editor in chief by emailing eic@tech.mit.edu. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors itself. They responded exactly in the way the party that claims the legacy of Abraham Lin- coln, arguably the most eloquent man ever to hold the nation’s highest office, is now finding the voices of the heirs to that legacy drowned out by the uninformative yelling of their peers.
**Tchaikovsky**

Solution, page 14

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

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**Chopin**

Solution, page 14

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**Brahms**

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**Mozart**

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[1655] Doomsday Clock

_Webcomic of Romance, Sarcasm, Math, and Language_ by Randall Munroe

After a dooms day trip to the future of the atomic scientists, the new Digital Doomsday Clock is blinking code and mum.
Beethoven

Solution, page 12

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Bridle Path by Billie Truitt

Solution, page 12

ACROSS
1 Ski run
6 Lower leg
10 Any harvested product
14 Chicken for roasting
16 Mona __
17 On one’s toes
19 End of a waiting line
20 At work again
23 Fish eggs
24 Commercials, for instance
25 Window-shade holder
28 Tater
31 High-tech “fingerprint”
34 Fencing sword
35 Reveal a secret
37 Mermaid’s home
39 “Hold on, I’m almost ready.”
42 St. Patrick’s Day celebrants
43 Quiche ingredients
44 Not prerecorded
45 Courtroom prosecutors: Abr.
46 Crimson and scarlet
48 How pretzels are often served
50 That woman
51 Cat’s coat
52 Removed all constraints
53 Acknowledge silently
54 Pals in Paris
56 “Ribbit!” croaker
57 Ascended
58 Prepare for publication
59 “Let’s just leave __ that”
60 Taboo action

DOWN
1 Sign of healing
2 Song syllables
3 Oil cartel
4 Sausage meat
5 All-inclusive
6 List of candidates
7 Way up in the sky
8 “Now it makes sense”
9 Bahamas capital
11 Regretted
12 Word-of-mouth
13 Whittle down
15 Mona __
16 Mystical glow
17 On one’s toes
18 Years and years
19 End of a waiting line
20 At work again
23 Fish eggs
24 Commercials, for instance
25 Window-shade holder
28 Tater
31 High-tech “fingerprint”
34 Fencing sword
35 Reveal a secret
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Guy Maddin: smaller than life

Maddin takes us from his beginnings in cinema to a preview of his latest project: Seances

By Byles Arthur

The room is bubbling with conversation and an everting vibe as I walk into 56-114, where the Pre-Cinematic Society hosts its Thursday evening Colloquium. Stu- dent Cinematographer, William Uricchio, explains that it “is going to be a conversation.” The seats end up filling up the back way, and with some unruly air conditioning, we’re all getting a bit cozy before the conversation starts. Later we’ll find out that “cozy” is often what director Guy Maddin seeks for his film projects, so perhaps it’s just as well.

The conversation begins with Maddin introducing himself as “here, smaller than life.” As I look outside to the darkened MIT campus, I realize that my window view is being projected behind the screen. Maddin tells us how Leni Riefenstahl wrote to him about an idea for a film, which was to be an op- ened and sip. Maddin explains these fleeting intrusions into the world of sublime surrealism that only Julia Holter is capable of creating.

Guy Maddin: smaller than life

The experimental L.A.-based musician visits Boston following the release of her latest album Have You in My Wilderness
**THEATER REVIEW**

**Much Ado About Nothing:** hormones and humor run rampant in Messina gaming lounge

Ensemble’s choice of setting brings Shakespeare into the digital age and into our hearts

By Alexandra Sourakov

Taking a theatrical journey to Messina, the traditional setting of Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing, was exactly what I needed by the end of this past week. It turned out to be a rather intimate and yet fun experience for a gaming lounge rather than a small Italian town. But hey, “all the world’s a stage,” and the Shakespeare Ensemble does a fantastic job of adapting one of the Bard’s most beloved comedies to our times.

The story to unfold is one of youthful love and camaraderie and the power of hearsay, rumor, and aspersions cast against one of the Bard’s most beloved comedies to ours. It is conveyed so well by Duerst. Claudio and Hero are the picture of teenage passion, and you can imagine what that means. Leonato, Hero’s father, expertly projects both his lines and the cutting pain and betrayal he feels. The staging of the production, bringing minor technical difficulties, was well executed and demonstrated a creative use of space. The actors played their parts in front of a back-drop of computer monitors mounted in the rear, which alternately showed scenes from video games and Skype calls that were happening between characters. In interludes between dialogues, as a manner of exposition, or to show a character’s point of view, the actors would take on the identity of their gaming world counterparts: a whip-bearing maiden, a wizard, a king. Not only were these interludes amusing, but they provided breathing room between scenes. This style of engagement also served as a brilliant substitute for the masked ball in the original play, during which the wooing of Hero takes place. And when you consider it, what are these virtual characters if not masks?

This production seemed like it was trying to raise some interesting questions about the nature of communication and rumors in our digital world but does so only obliquely, partly because it opts instead to remain faithful to the original script. There are some aspects that are rather strange in this gamer’s lounge but not implausible, like Hero’s father playing video games alongside her and hanging around the lounge all day. Several times during the play, I had the fleeting thought, “Wow, these are MIT students?” and the thought was not related to the caliber of their performance, which was high, but to the fact that I was so immersed in the experience, it seemed strange to imagine them in any other context. It is sure to lift your spirits and warm your heart. But in the words of Claudio, strange to imagine them in any other context. It is sure to lift your spirits and warm your heart. But in the words of Claudio, it isn’t for the faint of heart, but as the movie progressed, I found myself enjoying the game. My theory is that I hoped for a little bit more from Sacha Baron Cohen. ‘The movie pushes the limits of the R rating, but it doesn’t feel like it has any particularly good reason for doing so. It often aims to shock, seems to shock for shock’s sake because it needs more than that to make an impact in a culture that has become desensitized to this kind of humor. Since Booth made the nation gasp a decade ago, Sacha Baron Cohen should check out the Internet. I hear there are, like, no restrictions on there.

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**The Brothers Grimsby**

by Gabe Fields

Sacha Baron Cohen’s newest movie delivers on shock-based humor, not much else

Unlike his previous work, The Brothers Grimsby is about a novel first-person viewpoint that invokes a kinetic sense of live-action Call of Duty. But for The Brothers Grimsby to truly work, it would have needed to more successfully blend its twin elements of action and comedy, allowing them to play off of and drive one another. And because the sky aspect of the narrative is played so straight, refusing to wink at the audience or acknowledge how generic it is, this meshing is never fully achieved.

Sacha Baron Cohen is known for his character work, for developing hilariously outlandish yet sympathetic personalities and refusing to break character when filming. But Nobby came across to me more as “just a character” not a “Sacha Baron Cohen character” This is probably intentional: Baron Cohen seems to be more focused now on making movies than on inhabiting a persona. But for the result (or perhaps for unrelated reasons), Nobby felt very thinly characterized to me, and I never found him particularly sympathetic. While the topical jokes do hire, on subjects ranging from Bill Cosby to drug dealers on LinkedIn, were admittedly hilarious, they served to undermine Nobby as a character to me, further hindering any sense of connection.

Now, The Brothers Grimsby is undeniably a fun movie. It takes some time to get going, and it isn’t for the faint of heart, but as the movie progressed, I found myself enjoying the game. My theory is that I hoped for a little bit more from Sacha Baron Cohen. The movie pushes the limits of the R rating, but it doesn’t feel like it has any particularly good reason for doing so. It often aims to shock, seems to shock for shock’s sake because it needs more than that to make an impact in a culture that has become desensitized to this kind of humor. Since Booth made the nation gasp a decade ago, Sacha Baron Cohen should check out the Internet. I hear there are, like, no restrictions on there.

**The Brother’s Grimsby**

Directed by Louis Leterrier

Starring Sacha Baron Cohen, Rebel Wilson, Mark Strong

Rated R

Now Playing

A novel first-person viewpoint that invokes a kinetic sense of live-action Call of Duty. But for The Brothers Grimsby to truly work, it would have needed to more successfully blend its twin elements of action and comedy, allowing them to play off of and drive one another. And because the sky aspect of the narrative is played so straight, refusing to wink at the audience or acknowledge how generic it is, this meshing is never fully achieved.

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The Tech speaks to Sacha Baron Cohen about The Brothers Grimsby

The actor talks about improvisation, Donald Trump, and the challenges of escaping a hotel in bondage

By Gabe Fields

“I gotta say one thing: f**k Harvard!” This was the first thing Sacha Baron Cohen said when he walked on stage at the screening of his new movie, The Brothers Grimsby.

One day later, as he walked over to the table I shared with two college reporters in a busy Four Seasons Hotel dining room, he told me that he felt he had received a sigh of relief. The actor is famous for appearing in public in character, from the press conferences for Borat to his appearance at this year’s Academy Awards as Al G (which wasn’t planned, he snuck his costume into the venue's bathroom) — so I was very happy that I felt he was not Nobby, the main character of The Brothers Grimsby.

The interviews, along with the screening, were part of his first press event out of character.

Sacha Baron Cohen is tall, with black spiked hair and glasses. He speaks deliberately and eloquently in a deep British accent, far cry from the voices of his famous movie characters. He introduced himself to me and the other reporters (from Emerson College and Boston University) and asked what college we were from. When I answered “MIT” he responded, “Well la-di-da.”

The Daily Free Press: Are you the inspiration for Nobby? Sacha Baron Cohen: Well, what happened was this guy who wrote Wreck-It Ralph, Phil Johnson, came into the office and pitched this idea, which was James Bond’s brother. My immediate reaction was, “Who’s the best guy to act as a foil to a James Bond-type that could create havoc with him on the road?” So I thought, “What are the common attributes of these action heroes?” Generally, they’re lacking in any empathy, they’re ruthless murderers, they’re sexual stereotypes, they use violence toward everyone, they have no loving relationships. They’re basically misogynistic, and they are almost always fools.

You can work out who’s the opposite of that character. Someone who’s a real person, who has a life, who has depth, who has kids, who’s sick, who doesn’t stop talking, and somebody who’s kind of from a lower stratum of society. A complete embarrassment for his brother. Then, you kind of work it out logically: okay, this kind of guy would be a good comic foil, because he sounds quite mathematical, and less funny, doesn’t it? Doesn’t sound very funny. That’s the problem with comedy, it become very unfunny when you’re talking about it.

The Tech: You’ve always been pretty immersed in your roles. Do you think Nobby was a character that you got as a gift or would you have wanted everyone to see?

Sacha Baron Cohen: Yes. Yes, I did. I saw a video on the Internet called [30x783]The Tech: You said there was a lot of improvisation involved in filming The Brothers Grimsby. What was the filming of an average scene like in terms of the development?

Sacha Baron Cohen: What happens is, we write the basic scene, we shoot the basic scene a few times, and then we go “Okay, let’s do a couple of improvised takes.” (Claps). Crack, I crack my heel, broke my heel, which is apparently an injury that no one’s had since 1970. Women used to get it when they wore platform boots in the ‘70s. And we jump into the car and zoom off. Broke my heel and we had to shut down production.

The Tech: You said you really wanted to make sure that we’re doing it not consolidating any racial stereotypes, or gender stereotypes, or sexual stereotypes. When there’s a scene, often, immediately in the writer’s room, we’ll go “all right, that would be really funny.” Then we analyze whether it’s that kind of thing. So I hope that I really do make people laugh hysterically, laugh harder than they do in any other movie, but undeniably, if it’s great if they take something out of the movie other than just some big cock jokes.

The Tech: So I know you had a lot of issues with the MPAA to make sure the movie was not NC-17. Do you feel like in the end you were still able to make the movie that you wanted to make?

Sacha Baron Cohen: Yes. I think, ultimately, we used some tricks to try and get them to give us what we wanted by extending certain scenes to, like what I mentioned with the elephant scene … because I’ve dealt with them before.

Emertainment Monthly: Do you do any stunts of your own for this movie?

Sacha Baron Cohen: Yes. Yes, I did. I saw the stunts. Ironically, the only time I broke a bone was during [34x476]Sacha Baron Cohen stars in The Brothers Grimsby.

I always am careful to make sure that we’re doing is not consolidating any racial stereotypes, or gender stereotypes, or sexual stereotypes.
Behind the scenes at Flour
Making life sweeter, one order at a time

By Gillian Belton

You could get all the education you could possibly imagine — a B.S., an M.S., an M.D. or even a Ph.D. — and it wouldn’t prepare you for working in the food industry. One task isn’t necessarily more difficult than the other, but a majority of the skills required for one simply don’t carry over to the other. At least, that’s what I’ve found throughout my experiences working at the Flour Bakery and Café these past few months.

I originally applied for a job at Flour because of an excess of free time first semester. I didn’t actually know anyone who had worked there, but my impressions of Flour, from the customer point of view, were very encouraging and I imagined it would be a fun and engaging place to work. I wasn’t wrong.

Now that I’ve been on the other side of the counter, I can never go back. I have a much greater appreciation for bakers, servers, and counter staff, and truly understand the importance of tipping. I didn’t know that it was common to give credit card tips on food ordered at a counter, and must admit I had never even thought to tip someone in that manner. (Perhaps some of you may admit this as well.)

The first time I saw someone give a credit card tip while working, the generosity amazed me — until a couple hours later when I noticed that it’s a pretty common kindness at Flour. On an average day, about 20 percent of my income is from credit card and cash tips! I believe this warm and thoughtful behavior is to create every day.

I believe that most of this insistence on quality is due to the incredible and inspiring owner, Joanne Chang. Years after graduating with a degree in Applied Mathematics from Harvard, Joanne opened up Flour in the South End of Boston. In the end, if I accidentally told you we made a mistake, I’ve learned to just let it go. In the end, if I accidentally told you we had a pastry when we were actually sold out, I’ve made drinks incorrectly, told people we were out of a particular item, and charged people for the wrong items on the register.

Since my first day, I’ve had plenty of rude customers, unhappy customers, and even customers that have outright yelled at me. I’ve had customers that were angry at me for no substantive reason: one time, a customer was upset because they wanted their pastries now and didn’t want to wait five seconds for me to put on the "Flour" sticker, and so proceeded to yell loudly at me. I have also had customers who have gotten frustrated at me for justifiable reasons: I’ve made drinks incorrectly, told people we had a pastry when we were actually sold out, and charged people for the wrong items on the register.

One of the most surprising things that I learned at Flour was how much thought, effort, and energy goes into every piece of pastery, drink, and sandwich. Every employee works incredibly hard to make it seem like the process of getting your food is effortless. Most of this effort is due to the efficient system Flour has developed. One that has been modified to near perfection and is constantly improving even now.

When you order a drink, we put the cup on top of the espresso machine, yell "drink up" so the person making drinks hears, and retrieve every ingredient needed beforehand to speed up the process. In addition, each sandwich and pastry ingredient is added only after it goes through countless testing phases, and pastries are displayed such that there is never any empty space between them and allergy-specific items are kept apart.

This final lesson I’ve learned while at Flour has been methodically considered. We never take your order until you have passed the refrigerated case, because then you’ll have had the chance to see the pastries. When you order a drink, we put the cup on top of the espresso machine, yell “drink up” so the person making drinks hears, and retrieve every ingredient needed beforehand to speed up the process. In addition, each sandwich and pastry ingredient is added only after it goes through countless testing phases, and pastries are displayed such that there is never any empty space between them and allergy-specific items are kept apart.

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Throughout my journey of working at Flour, I have learned so many valuable lessons, had so many fan experiences, met so many incredible people, and ate so much (probably way too much) good food. Now my floormates have new and creative ways to tease me by bombarding me with Flour-based trivia — although they never question the leftover pastries I bring home — and I can boast about knowing way too much about caffeinated drinks.

Gillian Belton is a member of the Class of 2016.
Victor Morales

Editor's Note: Portraits of Resilience is a photographic project created by Daniel Jackson. Each installment consists of a portrait and text by the subject, written in their own words, of how they found resilience and meaning in their life.

I am an immigrant from Mexico. My mom raised me and my two siblings all by herself. She worked so hard and struggled a lot; she never learned English. Halfway through third grade, I was placed in an English-only class. I was left behind from my time at MIT. All I knew was that I needed sleep, and I didn't understand that I needed professionalism. I didn't understand that I was depressed.

My friends were taking me out to lunch and dinner, spending three, four hours with me, talking about me and me and me all the time. They had become a reason for me to live. How could I take my own life when so many people had invested so much in me?

I was taking days off work because my anxiety was so bad. My principal said, “You need to come to work every day no matter how you feel.” All of us here were experiencing some level of what you’re experiencing,” I had told her that I was going through mental health problems. What she said belittled my experience and made me feel like I was being white. It was a small thing, so it just made it so much worse.

I fell in love with the kids, and I built great relationships with the staff. But by the end of the year, I was having an anxiety attack every single week, and I just couldn’t take it. I couldn’t keep teaching at that school, and the principal ended up not inviting me back.

I found another job at a school called Boston International Newcomers Academy. They had an old building, and the hallways weren’t clean, but the culture was so warm. The teachers made me feel so valuable even on my first day. All the students were immigrants going through challenges like the ones I had experienced. They were so polite, so respectful, always so happy to see me. I felt so proud to be privileged to be their teacher.

It was the end of October last year when the depression came back, and it came back many times worse. It was like I woke up one day and felt numb. I couldn’t feel sad or sorry for myself. I couldn’t eat anything because I couldn’t get anything down. I would watch shows on TV with my brother’s friends. I would do that.

It was a very, very difficult year, but I lived through it. In my senior year, my anxiety came back. I went to office hours every day. The professor was asking me questions, but I didn’t understand. So, I froze. He said, “I think your IQ is very high, but you don’t know what ‘that question’ is.” A lot of thoughts were flowing through my head, like, “Why did I come to office hours? I’m so stupid. I don’t belong in this class. I don’t belong at MIT.” I’m walking away. I’m scared, and tears are starting to form but I’m trying to hold them back, and it feels like I’m almost helplessly going down these tears. As soon as I exit his office, I just start crying and crying.

Another time, I was working on a project with an instructor from the Scheller teaching school. I was really struggling, and I asked, “Wow, you’ve spent so many days and you don’t even have a concrete question? What are you doing?” The professor is a licensed high school teacher, and I’ve taught students who are immigrants, who are working multiple jobs, who work until 10 p.m., who come to school and they’re falling asleep. It never made me feel bad. She asked me why I was feeling so depressed.

I just found a way you asked me. It was the end of October last year when I was diagnosed with anxiety and depression. I was terminally fired because I had missed too many days. I struggled financially, and my medical expenses were very high. I was going to therapy and taking Prozac, but it just made me worse.

There were a couple occasions when I asked my friends whether I was alive or not. I would ask them, “I don’t think I’m alive anymore.” I don’t know what I was thinking. I thought that if I was experiencing anxiety, what was the point in living anyway. It was like a buzzfeed video, meditating, or having a conversation with a friend. Depression was a totally different beast. To overcome it, I had to develop meta-cognitive strategies. The first step was to convince myself that life is worth living and then choose to live. I had already had this sort of plan to take my own life, but I couldn’t stand the thought of taking my own life and setting up my friends to experience a tragedy of this kind. My friends were coming to lunch and dinner, spending three, four hours with me, talking about me and the day. They had become a reason for me to live.

How could I take my own life when so many people had invested so much in me? So many people saw — I don’t know what in me, and I guess they cared or they didn’t. In that way they communicated to me that they thought it should be worth it for me to survive.

One day I discovered that at the source of my depression was this idea that anxiety and depression were at the start of every class for me to get them to be quiet.

The students who wanted to learn were frustrated because they were already so behind. They thought I was a joke. I was out of control, and that was very, very stressful. My principal ended up inviting me to sit down, telling me, “It sounds like a very difficult experience, but you can do this.”

That made me feel terrible. For all I try, I can’t just do this. She would tell me, “Victor, you can do this.”

They have an entire new perspective on life. It taught me an entire new perspective on life. I felt like I was betraying them.

Such-and-such kids were talking when you needed to ask them a question. Such-and-such kids walked in late. Such-and-such kids were talking in the room.

The students who wanted to learn were frustrated because they were already so behind. They thought I was a joke. I was out of control, and that was very, very stressful. My principal ended up inviting me to sit down, telling me, “It sounds like a very difficult experience, but you can do this.” This class. I don’t even belong at MIT. I’m very overweight. When I started, I was weighing myself every morning. I was hoping people would notice and treat me differently. Girls started paying more attention to me and I made friends. People were still making fun of me that I was gay, but at least I was happy with myself.

When I got into MIT, my mom said, “No, you can’t go to the community college here.” But when I told my dad, he said, “Sure, it was the MIT, and he said, “Wow, you have to go.” When my mom heard him, she of course supported me.

At the end of my sophomore year, I slept through an exam and failed two classes. It was a very, very difficult year, but I passed all of them. By the end of the summer, I had been having a hard time. I was out of control and was having panic attacks.

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Course 14-2 math electives prep students for further work in field

Major requires additional math, fewer economics courses

Economics, from Page 1

dents who want to do further study in economics and two, to satisfy substan-
tive interest in mathematics."

Indeed, a student who is trained only in Course 14 would not have the math background required for a PhD program in economics, many of which — including MIT’s — require advanced courses such as Real Analy-

sis. While a student could concurrently major in economics and mathematics, “14-2 creates a path for these students to study the economics that engages them, get the math training they need, and still have some bandwidth for oth-
er pursuits,” Autor wrote in an e-mail to The Tech. “We want students to have a broadening MIT experience, not to get too narrow and specialized while they’re hardly out of their teens.”

There also appears to be demand for 14-2 from undergraduates. In a survey the economics department conducted last spring, 53 percent of minors that responded were “very in-
terested” in an econ-math combined major. Even before the survey, “we had a number of casual conversations with students who were interested in different flavors of the economics ma-

jor, and a more mathematical flavor was certainly one of them asked,” Senior Lecturer Sara Ellison PhD ‘98, a co-author of the proposal, wrote in an
e-mail to The Tech.

The increased flexibility of 14-2 resonates with some students. The ma-

jor “offers students interested in both math and economics the time to follow their own academic interests and elect-

ives, rather than the need to pursue both majors’ requirements at the same time,” said Jiacheng Feng ’16, vice-

president of the Undergraduate Eco-


nomic Association, in an interview with The Tech.

A new major could potentially help increase the number of economics majors, which is thought to be “small-

er than it should be,” Autor said during the meeting. The economics depart-

ment expects three to six 14-2 majors in its first several years. According to the registrar’s 2015-2016 enrollment statistics, there are only 38 undergrad-

uates in course 14. For comparison, there are 360 course 18 and course

18-C majors.

Curriculum Description

Compared to the traditional course 14 major, 14-2 requires fewer econom-

ics classes. Course 14 students today must take six electives beyond the sta-

tistics and econometrics, and interme-

diate microeconomics and macroeco-

mics, sequences. In contrast, 14-2 students can substitute other electives for the microeconomics and macro-

economics sequence. Beyond that, at most two economics electives are

needed. The remaining requirements go to math subjects: majors must take a flavor of real analysis, linear alge-

bra or differential equations, a math seminar, and at least one other math elective.

Complementing the 14-2 major is the creation of a new communications intensive class, Mathematical Eco-

nomic Modelling, tentatively dubbed 14.BB. It is tentatively thought of as a theoretical counterpart to 14.BB, a class that teaches students how to write an empirical economics paper. “The idea is that students will come into the class having had significant exposure to economic theory, game theory, for in-

stance, and then, in the class, develop an idea for their own theory paper and receive the guidance and structure they need to write it,” said Ellison.

Future programs

In addition to the Mathematical Economics major, the economics depart-

ment expects to propose an inter-

disciplinary Economics and Computer Science major next year following revisions to the course 6 curriculum. According to the proposal, the 2015 spring survey found that 59 percent of students were “very interested” in an econ-computer science major. Course 6 continues to be the most popular MIT undergraduate major, with about 300-400 students every year.

— Anthony Yu

Director named for clinic which will open in fall

Sloan, humanities, biology students have all used clinic

ON THE FRONT LINES OF PROMOTING INNOVATION: FROM MIT TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Michelle K. Lee
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Thursday, March 31st
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
MIT Campus, Huntington Hall, Room 10-250

Sponsored by the
Office of the Vice President for Research and The Science Policy Initiative

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Solution to Beethoven

from page 6

Solution to Crossword

from page 6

FROM MIT TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

WEBCHART SHIN CRUMP CUPW LISA AURA ALBERT R WINTERS
BACK IN THE SADDLE ROLL THE SPUDNA EPETTEL OCEAN TEEM IRIKOS LIVE RICKY K FAN CHIC RUTTAR LITTAR CORE TDOTO SAD SAGS SETTIO

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disciplinary Economics and Computer Science major next year following revisions to the course 6 curriculum. According to the proposal, the 2015 spring survey found that 59 percent of students were “very interested” in an econ-computer science major. Course 6 continues to be the most popular MIT undergraduate major, with about 300-400 students every year.

— Anthony Yu

Director named for clinic which will open in fall

Sloan, humanities, biology students have all used clinic

ON THE FRONT LINES OF PROMOTING INNOVATION: FROM MIT TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Michelle K. Lee
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Thursday, March 31st
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
MIT Campus, Huntington Hall, Room 10-250

Sponsored by the
Office of the Vice President for Research and The Science Policy Initiative

Solution to Beethoven

from page 6

Solution to Crossword

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FROM MIT TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

WEBCHART SHIN CRUMP CUPW LISA AURA ALBERT R WINTERS
BACK IN THE SADDLE ROLL THE SPUDNA EPETTEL OCEAN TEEM IRIKOS LIVE RICKY K FAN CHIC RUTTAR LITTAR CORE TDOTO SAD SAGS SETTIO

Spring 2016
Hena Karim Writing Prize

Competition

from page 6

Belt Manuscript Prize

Dewitt Wallace Prize for Science Writing for the Public

Election Kings Prize for Freedom of Information

Enterprise Posts Prize in Imaging a Future

Pritzker Prize for Science Fiction

Robert A. Belt Writing Prize

Vera List Prize for Visual Arts

Writing and Humanistic Studies for Engineering Writing

Deadline for Submissions is Monday, April 4, 2016

Guaranteed, details, and cover sheets, the blowout edition. www.mit.edu/writing prizes

12 THE TECH

March 17, 2016

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016
My name is Max Liu, and I'm running for student government, and I think it just took a while for the momentum and want to keep working for things is [community].

The Tech: What are you most excited about? Diversity is clearly something you're excited about — are there some other things? Liu: Definitely my training that I learned in class today: there are low-context cultures and high-context cultures. For example, if you go to the U.S., we're super litigious, everything has to be written down. There's a lot of trust and they don't go to legislation [quickly]…

Gomez: I don't think because we've really cut out that we increased the activism energy of joining the UA for people who are curious and unsure about the experience. That being said I think that rights of students' money on internal things. If you're just trying to make more of your money so you could... You're trying to do non-partisan amount for the group as a whole to bond. Because we've really cut out that we increased the activism energy of joining the UA for people who are curious and unsure about the experience. That being said I don't know if you think you're just trying to make more of your money so you could... You're trying to do non-partisan amount for the group as a whole to bond.

The Tech: So you do think that the reason people didn't want SHAC to be as widely publicized is because people were afraid of getting hidden on the issue... "The issue" and no one would talk about it because they didn't want to feel about these issues that have the potential to sort of shut down the whole thing. Liu: To be completely clear, I wasn't actually here at the fall, but I heard — and you should definitely ask people on the committee this — that people were afraid that they were even talking about freshman housing issues once, and that wasn't the focus of the group. And it was an open discussion... I think that the whole question of how to think freshman housing was mentioned... And I think that there were people trying to regroup and plan for the spring semester, but at no point was it deemed that this was a confidential discussion... I think that people are pretty ratio...
A quarter of new admits are from minority groups

Admitted students will come from a total of 65 countries

Admissions, from Page 1

percent of admits; 15 percent are first-generation college students. Approximately one quarter of the admits identify as an underrepresented minority (including African American, Latino or Hispanic, or Native American).

International citizens make up 9 percent of admits and represent 65 different countries.

MIT’s yield, or the percentage of admitted students who enroll at MIT, is projected to increase, Schmill said. “Last year our yield was 73% … five years ago, in 2011, it was 65%.” Students are certainly recognizing the value and excitement of MIT.

“The Admitted Class of 2020 is an extraordinary group of women and men,” Schmill said. “We look forward to communicating with these students so they can decide if MIT is the place they want to call home for the next four years.”

Campus Preview Weekend, during which time many admitted students will visit MIT’s campus, takes place April 7 to 10.
NEED SOMEONE TO LISTEN?
Whether you’re having a bad day or just want someone to talk to, Peer2Peer’s community of MIT students is here for you. Log in and chat anonymously about whatever’s on your mind with someone who really understands.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SUPPORT YOUR PEERS?
To become an MIT Peer2Peer listener, go to peer2peer.mit.edu, click “Become a Listener”, and complete the short online training!

peer2peer.mit.edu
Curling team takes bronze at collegiate national meet

The team discusses what it takes to excel at curling: strategy and specialized equipment are key factors

By Soupanoo Ghosh
SPORTS EDITOR

The MIT curling team clinched bronze at the Collegiate National Championship held at Chaska, MN from March 23 to 25. The Engineers comprehensively outplayed Nebraska, ending with a score of 12-4 to secure their second-place/third finish in as many years as the nationals.

The journey to the finals began in the fall of 2015 for the team, which comprises captain Gregory A. Dooley G, Alexander W. Hull G, Nathaniel K. Bailey G, and Cody Karcher G. The team played in seven Bonsports (curling tournaments) and placed in the top 16 college teams across the country to secure a place in the national championships.

Curiously, Dooley, Karcher, and Bailey had all taken up curling as a sport after they joined MIT as graduate students. Dooley notes, “It is not often you can take up a sport in graduate school and yet get compete at a high level, even in the national.” Hull on the other hand had played for Colgate, a team he squared up against at the nationals.

“It is not just about sliding 42-pound stones on a sheet of ice and guiding them within the house(concentric rings drawn on the sheet of ice that serve as the scoring-zone),” Dooley explained. “There is strategy too.”

Teams alternate turns to slide stones with the aim of maximizing the number of stones placed by a team within the house after eight tries. However, it is also within a player’s right to attempt to displace an opposing team’s stone within the house by executing hits or picks.

“Often you place stones outside the scoring zone in early attempt to set up a curling shot to ward the end such that you have those stones guarding against hits or picks,” Dooley said. The trajectory of the stone on ice is influenced by teammates who sweep the snow from the path of the stones with curling brooms. As you would expect from engineers, the team had devised strategies based on the players’ strengths to maximize their chances of winning.

“We have different expertise when it comes to executing different kinds of shots and adjust our game plan accordingly,” explained Bailey.

If you thought the secret to their success lay in execution of their shots and strategy only, you would be missing a key element of curling. The players have specialized shoes such that the shoe corresponding to the dominant leg grips well on snow while the other is teflon-coated to allow for better sliding. “We need the right right equipment, sweep- ing, and execution to excel at the collegiate level,” Bailey injected.

For Dooley, a five-year veteran, this national meet was a swansong. For the rest of the team, the quest for glory resumes next Friday as they hit the Broomstones Curling Club, the MIT curling club’s stomping ground.

Okeke excels at nationals

Men’s track and field racks up six All-America honors at the NCAA Division III indoor meet

By Max Berkowitz
SPORTS STAFF

Men’s track and field tied for 16th place overall with 12 points at the 2016 NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championship meet held at Grinnell College.

Ariane Okeke ’18 finished fourth overall in the triple jump, earning All-America honors with a best leap of 48-feet, 1.75-inches (14.76m) — a new personal best for the junior. Compatriot William Raschke ’19 finished in 12th place with a best leap of 45-feet, 10-inches (13.97m).

Livingston Allefresi ’18, competing on the national stage for the first time in his career, finished seventh in the 280-metre dash with a time of 22.31 and earned All-America status.

Also on his first-ever trip to a NCAA Division III Championship, Jarod Wilson ’19 came in 15th place in the 800-meter run with a time of 1:59.94.

Virdi clinches her third national title

Women’s track and field places fifth at the 2016 NCAA Division III indoor championship meet

By Max Berkowitz
SPORTS STAFF

Women’s track and field placed fifth overall with 25 points at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championship — the second straight season and third time in program history that the Cardinal and Gray have earned top-five honors.

On the first day of the championship meet, Cinmir Virdi ’16 won her third consecutive national pole vault title with a facility record height of 13-feet, 6.5-inches (4.10m).

It took Virdi only five jumps to win her third straight title as she sealed it on her first attempt after both she and top-seeded Katherine Pimental from Ithaca College had cleared the 12-feet and 11.5-inches (3.85m) mark with ease. Pimental missed her third attempt on 4.05m leap, which left the champion in the hands of Virdi.

Virdi then eclipsed the 4.05m height to break both the MIT indoor and the facility record at 4.13m, which she cleared on her very first attempt. The old MIT best of 36-feet, 6.25-inches (11.12m) was set by Karin Fisher ’11, at the ECAC Division III Championship back on March 5, 2011.

Mary Eccles ’18 earned tenth place in the 5000-meter run, the longest individual event of the championship. Eccles crossed the line in 17:31.90.

Maryann Gron ’17 paced the Engineers after the second day of the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championship with a pair of top-three finishes. Gron began the day for MIT in the championship heat of the mile. As she did a year ago, Gron claimed third place in the event for the second time as she hit the NCAA Acolades with a time of 4:54.87, which was 2.1 seconds quicker than last year’s mark at the championship meet.

In the afternoon, the junior attempted to repeat as the national-champion in the 3000-meter run. This year, Gron ran a time of 9:34.99 for second place and her third All-America award of the season. She finished behind Amy Regan from Stevens Institute of Technology, who crossed the line in 9:30.80. Gron bested the Divi- sion III meet record (9:36.72) and the facility record (9:36.71) this season.

Nicole Zeinstra ’16 crossed the finish line in a time of 10:07.52 for 15th place in the 3000m. This was the senior’s first time running in the 3000m race at the NCAA Division III Championship.

After a two-week hiatus, the MIT women’s track and field team will kick off their outdoor season with a trip out west to San Diego State University for the Aztecs Invitational on Friday, March 25.

SPORTS BLITZ

Sailing finished second at the Arctic Circle Team Race, finishing with a 1-3-4 tally.

Men’s tennis (4-3) defeated Colby 7-2. ‘The Engineers won two of the three doubles fixtures and five of the six singles matches.

Men’s volleyball (18-11) blanked Elms in straight sets. Martin Krasuski ’17 led the team with seven kills.

Women’s fencing: Helen Sakuraba ’18 captured 12th place in the epee rankings at the NCAA Fencing Northeast Regional Championships on Sunday. Madison Douglas ’16 and Jessica Li ’17 claimed 21st place in the saber and foil competitions, respectively.

Men’s fencing: At the NCAA Northeast Regional Championships, Benjamin Kabanov ’16 and Giulio Gueltrini ’16 finished in 12th place in sabers and epees, respectively. Matthew Cavarzo ’12 who competed in the epee category at this event last year, led the foil team with a ranking of 7.